

Medical Personnel Learn Helicopter Safety Skills

by PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Life-saving helicopters landed at Timpanogos ball park, 500 N. 300 W. in Provo Tuesday night so the pilots and medical crew members could instruct local emergency medical service members how to work with and around operating helicopters.

"The purpose of the sessions is to familiarize ambulance crews and others working in emergency medical services to work with and use these specialized helicopters," said Provo Fire Department's Chuck Tandy, who organized the training.

He said helicopters have

come to be valuable tools in transporting the injured. Emergency medical services specialists are using them more and more and need to be knowledgeable about how to work with them safely.

"Air ambulances can turn a bumpy 20 to 30 mile trip by ground ambulance into a smooth five-minute ride," said Tandy.

Helicopters from LDS Hospital's Life Flight and the University of Utah Medical Center's Air Med service in addition to a medical evacuation helicopter from the U.S. Army Reserve's 321st Air Medical Detachment were involved in the Provo instruction night.

Paramedics, emergency

medical technicians and others from throughout Utah Valley participated.

Air crews taught the local medical specialists how to approach a helicopter when the rotors are still turning. Participants learned how to direct the craft into an accident scene and how to communicate with the pilot by radio or with hand signals.

"They also gave a brief history of the use of medical helicopters in Utah and demonstrated how to package a patient for air transportation," said Tandy.

Tandy said the helicopters are actually mobile intensive care units, pointing to all the emergency equipment carried aboard the craft.



Area medical personnel learn helicopter safety techniques.

Brian Tregaskis Photo

The spirit of Marlboro in a low tar cigarette.



In nearly six years

Life Flight Rescues, Transfers More than 2,600 Patients



Mar 1984

During the past five and one-half years, Life Flight has rescued victims who have been buried under tons of snow, trapped in overturned automobiles, lost in Utah's western deserts, stranded on mountain peaks, crippled by heart attacks or wounded by gunfire.

Life Flight is LDS Hospital's 24-hour emergency helicopter and airplane transport service. Approaching its sixth anniversary, Life Flight was started "because research shows that even a few minutes delay in receiving prompt medical care can mean the difference between life and death," explains Terry P. Clemmer, MD, director of critical care medicine.

More than 2,600 patients have been transported by Life Flight since the program began in July, 1978. These patients have ranged in age from a few months to more than 70 years and live in communities scattered throughout the Intermountain region.

More on Life Flight

Thomas, MD, the program's medical director. "Many physicians practicing in community hospitals can't accompany their patients to another institution. Life Flight allows them to remain where they're needed and still consult with our critical care specialists before, during and after the transport."

LDSH's emergency program uses a jet-powered Allouette 316B helicopter specifically designed for long distance, high altitude flying. The craft can carry a pilot, nurse, paramedic and two patients at speeds up to 120 miles per hour.

Life Flight also operates a fixed-wing service for patients located more than 100 miles from Salt Lake City. The program has flown hundreds of critically ill patients to medical centers located throughout the western United States.

Currently, Life Flight's helicopter and pilot are stationed at a helipad two blocks north of LDSH. The fixed-wing craft and



believe physicians have an obligation to lend their expertise to any area where it can be beneficial, instead of confining their work to the practice of medicine," he says. "We have to help the public develop an awareness of what constitutes

good health care, make sure they have access to it and that they know how to utilize it appropriately."

Dr. Smith has served on various commissions established by the governor of Utah, including the Governor's Commission on Health Standards for Day Care Centers, the Governor's Council for Comprehensive Health Care Planning and the Governor's HMO Advisory Council.

In addition to his service on the IHC board of trustees, he is a member of Utah Valley Hospital's board and a past member of the board of directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He was also a founder and president of the board of the first child guidance clinic in Utah County.

Dr. Smith's contributions to the state and community were formally recognized when he was elected to receive the A.H. Robins Award, an annual award presented by the Utah State Medical Society for exceptional service to both community and medical endeavors.

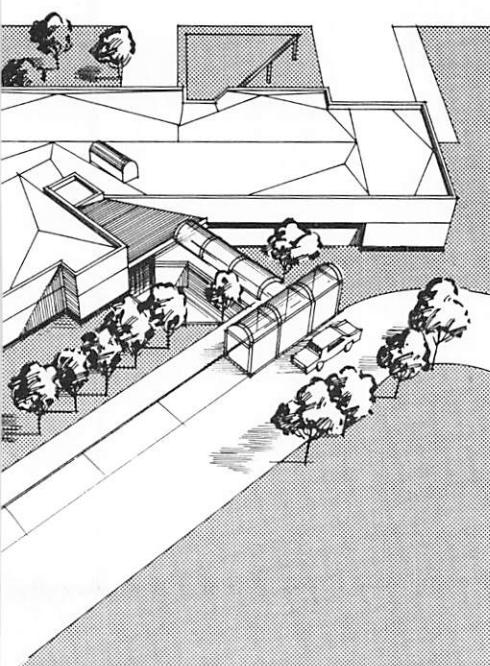
Dr. Smith's interests go beyond medicine — as far beyond as his legs will take him. He and his sons frequently backpack into the Uintah Mountains and through southern Utah's Canyonlands and he skis at Alta with his four daughters whenever possible.

Because his job is people oriented, Dr. Smith says he finds nothing as relaxing as, "getting away and focusing all of my attention on a tiny fly at the end of a long whisp of line and pole" — fly fishing at Strawberry Reservoir or on Soldier Creek in central Utah.

Music provides another means of relaxation. Dr. Smith played the viola with the Utah Symphony for a year, and later helped establish the Utah Symphony. He performed with the Utah Valley Symphony for several years and until recently played with a string quartet comprised of Utah County physicians.

After visiting Dr. Smith in his busy office, watching a two-year-old press both hands against the aquarium — right under the "Please don't touch the glass" sign — and seeing the tall, lean doctor hoist the little guy into the air without thinking twice, it's obvious that 30 years of practice is just the beginning.

Hospitals similar Facilities



"No other multihospital company has focused on rural health care as intently as IHC," Fonnesbeck says, "and based on our experience in similar rural settings, we are confident these new facilities will best serve the communities of Delta and Fillmore."

Medical Insurance Deductibles Improved

Last year a deductible was added to the IHC medical insurance program. It required those who had two-party or family coverage to pay a maximum deductible of \$100 or \$150 before benefits could be paid on any individual family member.

On Jan. 1, 1984, an improved method of administering the medical deductible became effective. Medical insurance will now begin to pay covered medical expenses for a participant after an individual deductible of only \$50 has been met. No more than three \$50 deductibles will be required of any family during a calendar year.

In addition, Associated American will keep track of all covered medical expenses submitted for each family member. If no single individual incurs over \$50 in expenses, the "family" deductible will be satisfied when members spend a combined \$150 toward covered medical expenses.